



MELROSE

Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Melrose is a small city located approximately seven miles north of Boston with a geographic area of 4.76 square miles and a population of 28,150 people.

Since its settlement in the middle of the 18th century, Melrose has offered its residents a desirable compromise between the crowded metropolis of Boston and the frontier of rural exurbia. Melrose is predominantly residential with exquisite Victorian homes dating from the late 1900s, but beyond being a city of homes, Melrose has a long-standing tradition of being self-sufficient, to support residents' housing, education, employment, health, shopping, entertainment, recreation and leisure needs. Melrose is proud of its excellent schools, its cultural facilities, including the 75-year old Melrose Symphony Orchestra, Melrose Massachusetts Television, the very active local cable channel, and its Victorian downtown area which is supported by a Chamber of Commerce and dates back to 1900. Another vital component of the quality of life in Melrose is its varied open space and recreation facilities. Ell Pond is a large natural feature in Melrose's center, trees line Melrose streets and parks and open spaces are dispersed through and around the city. Melrose is the true implementation of the notion of a garden city with a commercial/institutional downtown surrounded by housing of varied densities. In addition, the city is ringed by a "green belt" which includes the Middlesex Fells Reservation to the west, and this belt buffers it from surrounding communities. Melrose's recreational facilities include two golf courses, Pine Banks Park and Morelli field, a state-of-the-art baseball facility.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Wakefield on the north, Saugus on the east, Malden on the south, and Stoneham on the west. Melrose is 7 miles north of Boston; 8 miles west of Lynn; 97 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 225 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 4.76 sq. miles

Land Area: 4.70 sq. miles

Population: 28,150

Density: 5,989 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Boston North

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 665-2225

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor -Board of Aldermen

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1850

As a city: 1900

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	17,174		
Democrats	6,319	36.8	%
Republicans	3,100	18.1	%
Other parties	4	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,751	45.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Melrose city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	27,134	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	27,134	100.0
Male.....	12,757	47.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	283	1.0
Female.....	14,377	53.0	Mexican.....	36	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,810	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	60	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	1,622	6.0	Cuban.....	19	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,621	6.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	168	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	1,326	4.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	26,851	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	1,064	3.9	White alone.....	25,640	94.5
25 to 34 years.....	3,944	14.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,738	17.5	Total population.....	27,134	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,114	15.2	In households.....	26,805	98.8
55 to 59 years.....	1,436	5.3	Householder.....	10,982	40.5
60 to 64 years.....	1,026	3.8	Spouse.....	5,869	21.6
65 to 74 years.....	2,067	7.6	Child.....	7,967	29.4
75 to 84 years.....	1,647	6.1	Own child under 18 years.....	5,630	20.7
85 years and over.....	719	2.6	Other relatives.....	971	3.6
Median age (years).....	39.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	289	1.1
18 years and over.....	21,165	78.0	Nonrelatives.....	1,016	3.7
Male.....	9,740	35.9	Unmarried partner.....	426	1.6
Female.....	11,425	42.1	In group quarters.....	329	1.2
21 years and over.....	20,583	75.9	Institutionalized population.....	291	1.1
62 years and over.....	5,040	18.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	38	0.1
65 years and over.....	4,433	16.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,654	6.1	Total households.....	10,982	100.0
Female.....	2,779	10.2	Family households (families).....	7,108	64.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	3,158	28.8
One race.....	26,762	98.6	Married-couple family.....	5,869	53.4
White.....	25,820	95.2	With own children under 18 years.....	2,710	24.7
Black or African American.....	255	0.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	951	8.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	373	3.4
Asian.....	546	2.0	Nonfamily households.....	3,874	35.3
Asian Indian.....	97	0.4	Householder living alone.....	3,260	29.7
Chinese.....	253	0.9	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,447	13.2
Filipino.....	76	0.3	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,336	30.4
Japanese.....	17	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,140	28.6
Korean.....	22	0.1	Average household size.....	2.44	(X)
Vietnamese.....	48	0.2	Average family size.....	3.08	(X)
Other Asian ¹	33	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-	Total housing units.....	11,248	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	10,982	97.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	266	2.4
Samoa.....	3	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	48	0.4
Some other race.....	109	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	372	1.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	10,982	100.0
White.....	26,156	96.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	7,359	67.0
Black or African American.....	342	1.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,623	33.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	99	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.78	(X)
Asian.....	656	2.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.75	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	14	0.1			
Some other race.....	278	1.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	346
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	19
Federal (Section 8):	165



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Melrose is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 1 running N-S and State Route 99.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Melrose Highlands (travel time 17-19 min.; 28 MBTA parking spaces), Cedar Park (travel time 15-17 min.; 68 spaces), and Wyoming Hill (travel time 13-15 min.; 28 spaces). Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Melrose is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route bus service to neighboring communities and to Malden Station and Oak Grove Station on the Orange Line. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

Logan International Airport as well as the Boston docks, railroads and bus terminals are within easy commuting distance of Melrose, providing excellent land, sea and air carrier service.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Melrose-Wakefield Hospital

Long Term Care

Elmhurst Nursing Home

Mackenzie Nursing Home, Inc.

Melrose Care Center

Normandy House Nursing Home

Tuell Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Fitch Rest Home

Oosterman's Melrose R.H., Inc

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.